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# Fighting the Good Fight: Metadata in Research Data Management

12<sup>th</sup> October 2016

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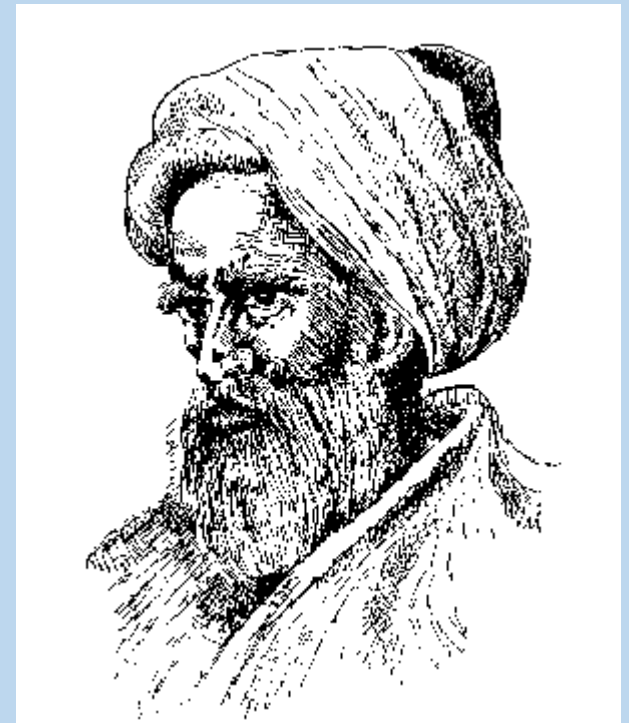
New Zealand's specialist land-based university

# Dawn of the Scientific Method

Hasan Ibn al-Haytham (965-1060 CE)

Credited with first written description of the Scientific Method in his *Book of Optics* (circa 1021)

Stressed the importance of reproducibility



[Hasan Ibn al-Haytham](#),  
Unknown artist, public domain



“If you can’t  
repeat it, it’s not  
science.”

*Jamie Hyneman*

“Remember kids,  
the only difference  
between screwing  
around and science  
is writing it down.”

*Adam Savage*



Image: [Adam Savage](#) by porkrind CC-BY-SA

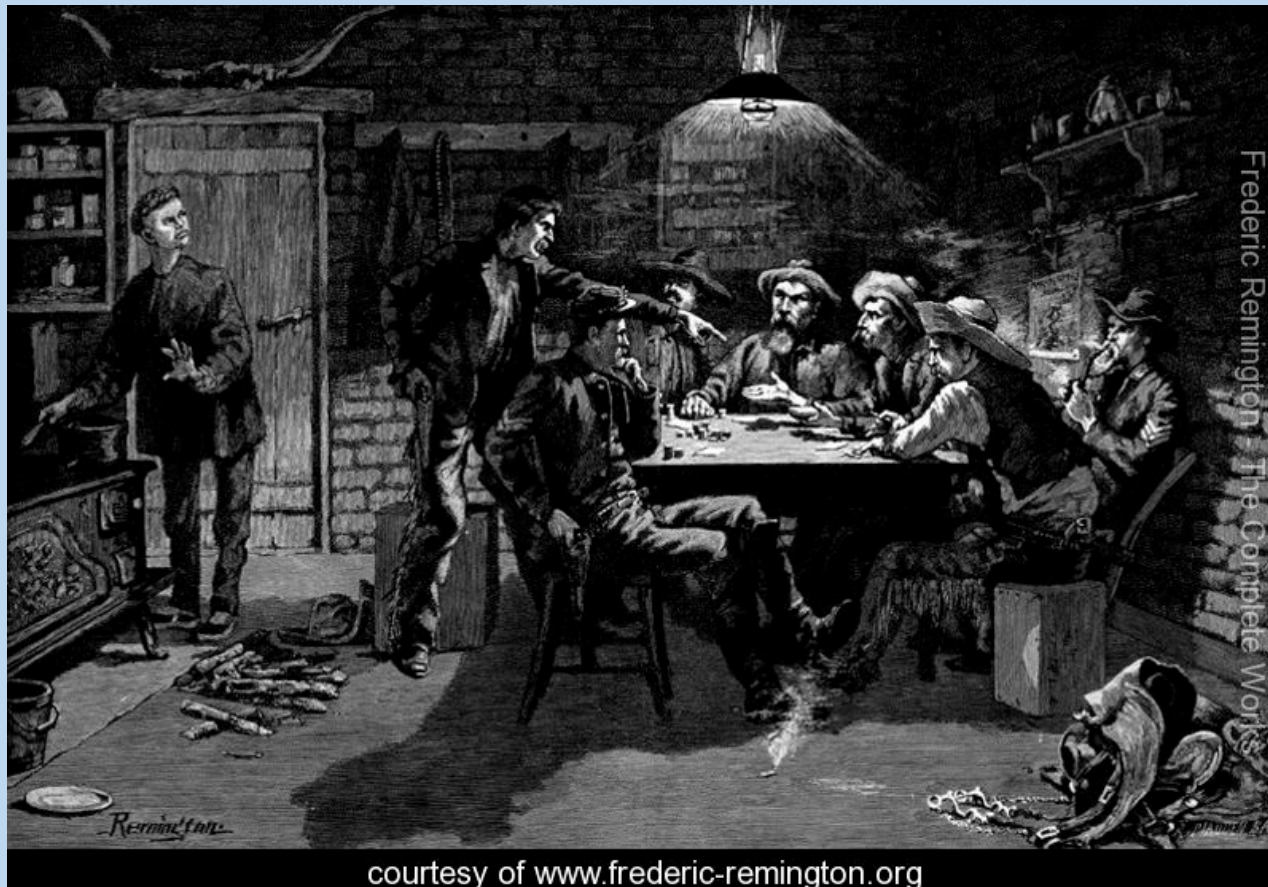


# Open Data Movement

Open Data: The public should continue to benefit from research paid for by public funds after the publication process is complete



# Representation of researchers discussing changes to academic publishing system (with apologies to Frederic Remington)



courtesy of [www.frederic-remington.org](http://www.frederic-remington.org)

[A Quarrel Over Cards – A Sketch from a New Mexican Ranch](#) by Frederic Remington

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# How far behind is New Zealand?

- 2005 – Wellcome Trust starts open-access for research papers and accompanying data
- 2007 – US Congress makes NIH open-data policy mandatory
- 2012-13 – NIH & WT announce they will withhold funds for non-compliance with data sharing policies
- 2016 – First NZ funder with data management and publication requirements.





# Research Data Management at New Zealand Universities

- No NZ universities have an established RDM programme
- Lincoln University is the first to conduct a RDM pilot project



# How is Lincoln University fighting the good fight?

- Loads of behind the scenes prep work
- Outreach
- Data Management Plans
- Training



What are we currently teaching  
about metadata?

We focus on the basics

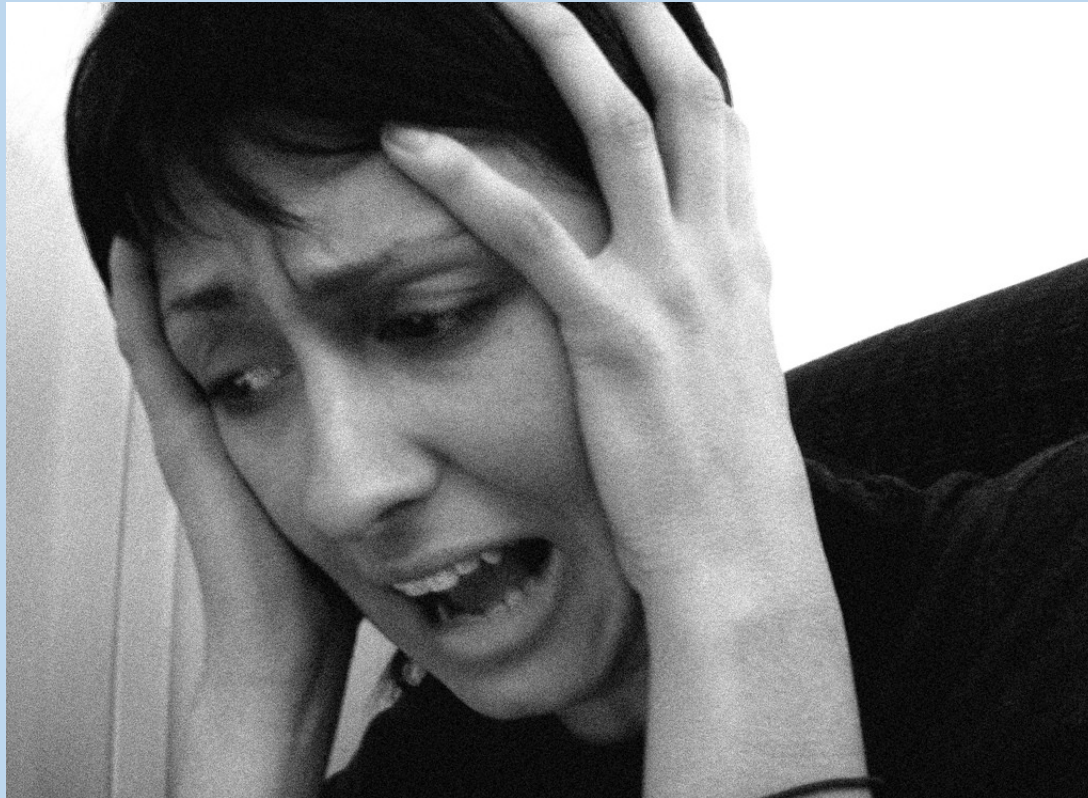


# Why aren't we teaching discipline-specific metadata standards?

Staffing limitations

The standards are intimidating

# Expected reactions to learning the details of discipline-specific standards



- Wailing
- Moaning
- Gnashing of teeth
- Denial
- Dominance displays
- Eventual acceptance

[Panic](#) by Nate Steiner, 2006, public domain







